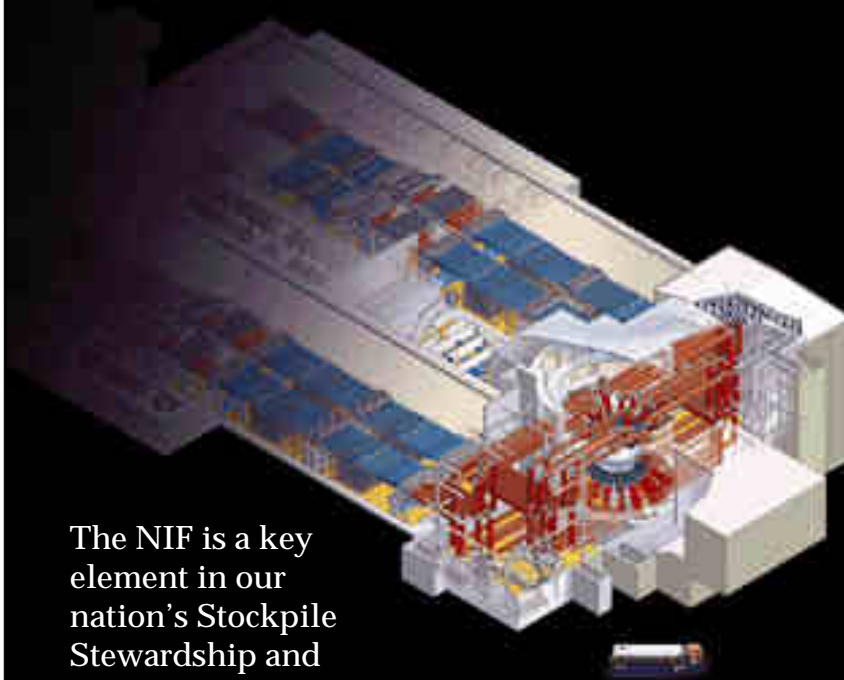


Plasma Ignition

National Ignition Facility



The NIF is a key element in our nation's Stockpile Stewardship and Management Program, which aims to maintain confidence in the safety and reliability of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile under a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. ICF target data from NIF will be used to verify complex computer simulations of nuclear weapons physics.

IFE power plant concept



The NIF will also be used for research in inertial fusion energy (IFE). ICF plasmas and supporting advances, such as direct-drive target illumination and ion-accelerator driver development, will provide the basis for realistic development of IFE.